

REMARKS

General Remarks

With this Amendment, Applicants rewrite Claim 2 into independent form, amend Claim 4 to depend from Claim 2, and cancel Claims 1, 3, and 5-29. No new matter is added. Therefore, Claims 2 and 4 are all the claims currently pending in the present application.

Claims 7-22

Claims 7-22, previously withdrawn from consideration, are cancelled.

Claims 1-6 and 23-29

Claims 1, 4-6, and 23-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over TAPPI test Method T 205 om-81 ("Tappi") or Kline, "Paper and Paperboard Manufacturing Fundamentals" ("Kline"). Claims 2-3 stand objected to as dependent from a rejected base claim.

In order to expedite prosecution, but without acquiescing in the propriety of this rejection, Applicants cancel Claims 1, 3, and 23-29.

Applicants rewrite Claim 2 into independent form. Applicants submit that Claim 2 is currently in proper form, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants amend Claim 4 to depend from Claim 2. Applicants submit that Claim 4 is therefore patentable at least by virtue of its dependence on Claim 2, and allowance of Claim 4 is respectfully requested.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/899,601

Q65349

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

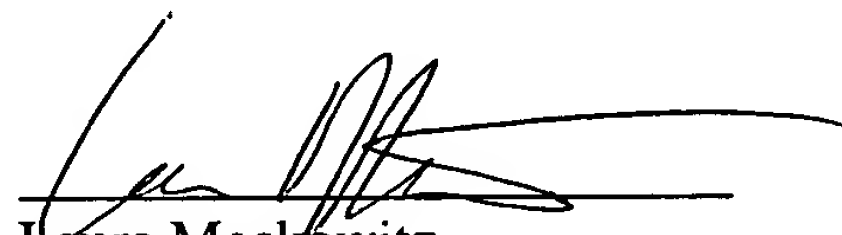
Respectfully submitted,

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